

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 093903
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, CH, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS ON PRC

REF: PEKING 0988

1. THE FOLLOWING Q & A CONCERNING CHINA IS TAKEN FROM THE
TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRESIDENT'S APRIL 11 MEETING WITH MEMBERS
OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS AS CARRIED BY
THE NEW YORK TIMES ON APRIL 12.

2. "Q. MR. PRESIDENT, BUD SMYSER FROM THE HONOLULU STAR
BULLETIN. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU ABOUT YOUR CHINA POLICY,
ABOUT TAIWAN IN PARTICULAR. THE PRESENT PEKING GOVERNMENT
SAYS THAT IT WILL NOT USE FORCE IN THE NEAR TERM TO SETTLE
THE TAIWAN QUESTION BUT IT WILL NOT RULE OUT THE USE OF
FORCE IN THE INDEFINITE FUTURE. DOES THIS RESERVATION BY
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PEKING POST AN INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLE TO OUR FULL DIPLO-
MATIC RECOGNITION OF PEKING?

"A. I WOULD NOT ACKNOWLEDGE AN INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLE.
IN REACHING THE GOALS EXPRESSED IN THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE,
WHICH IS BINDING ON US AND WHICH I FULLY SUPPORT, AND
BINDING ON THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA LEADERS, WE

RECOGNIZE THE CONCEPT THAT IS SHARED IN TAIWAN AND ON THE
MAINLAND THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE CHINA.

"WE RECOGNIZE THAT IT IS FOR THE BEST INTEREST OF OUR OWN
NATION TO HAVE FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHINA
AND MY HOPE IS THAT OVER A PERIOD OF MONTHS--WE'RE NOT IN
A BIG HURRY, NEITHER ARE THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
CHINA LEADERS--THAT WE WILL COMPLETELY REALIZE THE HOPES
EXPRESSED IN THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE."

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